



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 646**

February Session, 2008

\* SB00646ED 031908 \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING GIFTS AND CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS  
MADE TO ELECTED AND APPOINTED MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS WHO  
ARE INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATION AND AWARDED OF SCHOOL  
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) As used in this section and  
2 section 2 of this act:

3 (1) "Gift" means anything of value, including entertainment, food,  
4 beverage, travel and lodging given or paid to a public official or public  
5 employee to the extent that consideration of equal or greater value is  
6 not received. A gift does not include:

7 (A) A political contribution otherwise reported as required by law  
8 or a donation or payment as described in subdivision (9) or (11) of  
9 subsection (b) of section 9-601a of the general statutes;

10 (B) Services provided by persons volunteering their time for a  
11 political campaign;

12 (C) A commercially reasonable loan made on terms not more  
13 favorable than loans made in the ordinary course of business;

14 (D) A gift received from (i) an individual's spouse, fiance or fiancée,  
15 (ii) the parent, brother or sister of such individual or such spouse, or

16 (iii) the child of such individual or the spouse of such child;

17 (E) Goods or services which are provided to the municipality or  
18 regional school district and facilitate governmental action or functions;

19 (F) A certificate, plaque or other ceremonial award costing less than  
20 one hundred dollars;

21 (G) A rebate or discount on the price of anything of value given in  
22 the ordinary course of business without regard to the recipient's status;

23 (H) Printed or recorded informational material germane to  
24 governmental action or functions;

25 (I) Items of nominal value, not to exceed ten dollars, containing or  
26 displaying promotional material;

27 (J) An honorary degree bestowed upon a public official or public  
28 employee by a public or private university or college;

29 (K) A meal provided at an event or the registration or entrance fee  
30 to attend such an event, in which the public employee or public official  
31 participates in said person's official capacity;

32 (L) A meal provided in the home by an individual who resides in  
33 the municipality or regional school district; or

34 (M) Gifts in-kind of nominal value not to exceed twenty-five dollars  
35 tendered on gift-giving occasions generally recognized by the public  
36 including Christmas, Hanukkah, birthdays, the birth or adoption of a  
37 child, weddings, confirmations or bar or bat mitzvahs, provided the  
38 total value of such gifts in any calendar year do not exceed fifty  
39 dollars.

40 (2) "Immediate family" means any spouse, child or dependent  
41 relative who resides in the individual's household.

42 (3) "Individual" means a natural person.

43 (4) "Municipality" means a town, city or borough.

44 (5) "Person" means an individual, sole proprietorship, trust,  
45 corporation, union, association, firm, partnership, committee, club or  
46 other organization or group of persons.

47 (6) "Public official" means an elected or appointed official, whether  
48 paid or unpaid or full or part time, of a municipality or political  
49 subdivision thereof, or a regional school district who substantially  
50 participates in the process of negotiating and awarding school  
51 construction contracts under chapter 173 of the general statutes. Public  
52 official includes a candidate for any office for which the holder of the  
53 office substantially participates in such process.

54 (7) "Substantially participate" means to participate in a particular  
55 matter directly, extensively and substantively, not peripherally,  
56 clerically or ministerially.

57 (8) "Contribution" means contribution as defined in section 9-601a of  
58 the general statutes.

59 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) No public official shall solicit  
60 or accept any gift from any person that, to the official's knowledge, is  
61 doing business with respect to a school construction project under  
62 chapter 173 of the general statutes with the municipality or regional  
63 school district.

64 (b) No public official shall solicit or accept any gift from any  
65 individual who is in the immediate family of a person that, to the  
66 official's knowledge, is doing business with respect to a school  
67 construction project under chapter 173 of the general statutes with the  
68 municipality or regional school district.

69 (c) No public official shall solicit or accept any gift from an  
70 individual who is an employee of a person that, to the official's  
71 knowledge, is doing business with respect to a school construction  
72 project under chapter 173 of the general statutes with the municipality

73 or regional school district.

74 (d) No public official shall solicit or accept a campaign contribution  
75 of more than fifty dollars in any one election cycle from: (1) A person  
76 that, to the official's knowledge, is doing business with respect to a  
77 school construction project under chapter 173 of the general statutes  
78 with the municipality or regional school district, (2) an individual in  
79 the immediate family of such a person doing business with respect to a  
80 school construction project under chapter 173 of the general statutes  
81 with the municipality or regional school district, or (3) an individual  
82 who is an employee of a person that is doing business with respect to a  
83 school construction project under chapter 173 of the general statutes  
84 with the municipality or regional school district.

85 (e) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be  
86 assessed a civil penalty of not less than two thousand five hundred  
87 dollars or more than ten thousand dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

**ED**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*